

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE HUNDRED THIRTY-FIRST LEGISLATURE  
SECOND REGULAR SESSION  
7th Legislative Day  
Thursday, January 25, 2024

Representative PERRY of Calais assumed the Chair.  
The House met according to adjournment and was called to order by the Speaker Pro Tem.  
Prayer by Pastor David Wilhoite, The Apostolic Church of Mexico.  
National Anthem by Kendra Winson, Carthage.  
Pledge of Allegiance.  
Medical Provider of the Day, Patrick Connolly, MD, Falmouth.  
The Journal of Tuesday, January 23, 2024 was read and approved.

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Under suspension of the rules, members were allowed to remove their jackets.

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**SENATE PAPERS**

The following Joint Resolution: (S.P. 929)  
**JOINT RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING JANUARY 2024 AS  
CERVICAL CANCER AWARENESS MONTH**

WHEREAS, cervical cancer is the 4th most common cancer in women globally, with an estimated 604,000 new cases and 342,000 deaths in 2020; and

WHEREAS, most cervical cancer is caused by persistent infection with the human papillomavirus, or HPV; and

WHEREAS, the highest rates of cervical cancer incidence and mortality are in low-income and middle-income countries, which reflects major inequities driven by lack of access to the voluntary national HPV vaccination, cervical screening and treatment services and by social and economic determinants; and

WHEREAS, women living with human immunodeficiency virus, or HIV, are 6 times more likely to develop cervical cancer than women without HIV; and

WHEREAS, being voluntarily vaccinated at 9 to 14 years of age is a very effective way to prevent HPV infection, cervical cancer and other HPV-related cancers; and

WHEREAS, screening from 30 years of age, or from 25 years of age for women living with HIV, can detect cervical disease, the treatment of which prevents cervical cancer; and

WHEREAS, for women of any age with symptoms or concerns, early detection followed by prompt high-quality treatment can cure cervical cancer; and

WHEREAS, countries around the world are working to accelerate the elimination of cervical cancer in the coming decades, with an agreed set of 3 targets to be met by 2030: voluntary vaccination of 90% of girls by 15 years of age with the HPV vaccine; screening of 70% of women by 35 years of age and by 45 years of age with a high-quality test; and treatment of 90% of women with cervical disease; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED: That We, the Members of the One Hundred and Thirty-first Legislature now assembled in the Second Regular Session, on behalf of the people we represent, take this opportunity to designate January 2024 as Cervical Cancer Awareness Month in order to express our support for public awareness and access to information and services.

Came from the Senate, **READ** and **ADOPTED**.  
**READ** and **ADOPTED** in concurrence.

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**COMMUNICATIONS**

The Following Communication: (H.C. 365)  
**STATE OF MAINE  
131ST MAINE LEGISLATURE**

January 2, 2024

The Honorable Janet T. Mills  
Governor, State of Maine  
#1 State House Station  
Augusta, Maine 04333

Dear Governor Mills:

On behalf of the 131st Maine Legislature, we would like to invite you to deliver your State of the State Address. At your direction, we will call for a Joint Convention of the Legislature on Tuesday, January 30, 2024, at 7:00 p.m. in the House Chamber.

We look forward to coordinating any details necessary to see that your Address is received by the Legislature.

Sincerely,

S/Troy D. Jackson  
President of the Senate  
S/Rachel Talbot Ross  
Speaker of the House

**READ** and **ORDERED PLACED ON FILE**.

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The Following Communication: (H.C. 366)

**STATE OF MAINE  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
SPEAKER'S OFFICE  
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0002**

January 25, 2024

Honorable Robert B. Hunt  
Clerk of the House  
2 State House Station  
Augusta, Maine 04333

Dear Clerk Hunt:

Pursuant to my authority under House Rule 201.1 (H), I appoint Representative Anne C. Perry, of Calais to serve as Speaker Pro Tem to convene the House on Thursday, January 25, 2024.

Sincerely,

S/Rachel Talbot Ross  
Speaker of the House

**READ** and **ORDERED PLACED ON FILE**.

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The Following Communication: (H.C. 369)

**MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE  
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL**

January 5, 2024

Honorable Rachel Talbot Ross  
Speaker of the House of Representatives  
131st Maine Legislature  
Augusta, Maine 04333

Dear Speaker Talbot Ross:

I am notifying you that, pursuant to 12 MRSA §683-A, I have forwarded to the Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry the following nomination made to the Maine Land Use Planning Commission by the Oxford County Commissioners on November 2, 2023:

Lee Smith of Albany Township

The County asks that this nomination be considered to fill the four-year term that ends on November 2, 2027, which is scheduled to be filled by Oxford County.

Pursuant to 12 MRSA 683-A, this appointment is subject to confirmation by the Maine Senate after review by the committee having jurisdiction over conservation matters.

Sincerely,  
S/Suzanne M. Gresser  
Executive Director

**READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.**

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The Following Communication: (H.C. 370)

**MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE  
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL**

January 22, 2024

Honorable Rachel Talbot Ross  
Speaker of the House of Representatives  
131st Maine Legislature  
Augusta, Maine 04333

Dear Speaker Talbot Ross:

I am notifying you that, pursuant to 12 MRSA §683-A, I have forwarded to the Joint

Standing Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry the following nomination made to the Maine Land Use Planning Commission by the Franklin County Commissioners on January 16, 2024:

Thomas Dubois of Salem Township

The County asks that this nomination be considered to fill the four-year term that ends on January 16, 2028, which is scheduled to be filled by Franklin County.

Pursuant to 12 MRSA 683-A, this appointment is subject to confirmation by the Maine Senate after review by the committee having jurisdiction over conservation matters.

Sincerely,  
S/Suzanne M. Gresser  
Executive Director

**READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.**

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The Following Communication: (H.C. 367)

**STATE OF MAINE  
CLERK'S OFFICE  
2 STATE HOUSE STATION  
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0002**

January 25, 2024

Honorable Rachel Talbot Ross  
Speaker of the House  
2 State House Station  
Augusta, Maine 04333

Dear Speaker Talbot Ross:

Pursuant to Joint Rule 310, the following Joint Standing Committees have voted unanimously to report the following bills out "Ought Not to Pass:"

Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services

L.D. 1494 An Act to Help Address the Worker Shortage in Behavioral Health Care Services by Allowing Provisional Licensure and Providing for Reimbursement for Out-of-state Licensees

Innovation, Development, Economic Advancement and Business

L.D. 1994 An Act to Provide for Increased Academic Research by Allowing the Gathering of Data or Statistics by Telephone

Transportation

L.D. 235 An Act to Promote Economic Development in the Fishing Industry by Funding a Dredging Project in Portland Harbor

L.D. 1138 An Act to Improve Work and Family Mobility by Altering and Removing Certain Requirements for Driver's Licenses and Nondriver Identification Cards

L.D. 1210 An Act to Establish a Maine Highway Capital Fund to Provide Consistent Funding for the Construction and Repair of Maine's Roads and Bridges

L.D. 1455 An Act to Establish the Weighing Point Preclearance Program

Veterans and Legal Affairs

L.D. 1991 An Act Regarding Gubernatorial Primary Elections

Sincerely,  
S/Robert B. Hunt  
Clerk of the House

**READ and with accompanying papers ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.**

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The Following Communication: (H.C. 368)

**STATE OF MAINE  
CLERK'S OFFICE  
2 STATE HOUSE STATION  
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0002**

January 25, 2024

Honorable Rachel Talbot Ross  
Speaker of the House  
2 State House Station  
Augusta, Maine 04333

Dear Speaker Talbot Ross:

Pursuant to Joint Rule 310, the Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry has approved the request by the sponsor, Senator Hickman of Kennebec, to report the following "Leave to Withdraw: "

L.D. 650 An Act to Improve Maine Agriculture and Food Systems

Sincerely,  
S/Robert B. Hunt  
Clerk of the House

**READ and with accompanying papers ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.**

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At this point, the Speaker Pro Tem recognized the Representative from Hampden, Representative HAGGAN, and he was added to the roll call of the Second Regular Session of the 131st Legislature.

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**PETITIONS, BILLS AND RESOLVES REQUIRING REFERENCE**

Resolve, to Ensure That the Independent Commission to Investigate the Facts of the Tragedy in Lewiston Has Necessary Authority to Discharge Its Fact-finding Mission (EMERGENCY) (H.P. 1405) (L.D. 2192)

Sponsored by Speaker TALBOT ROSS of Portland. (GOVERNOR'S BILL)

Cosponsored by President JACKSON of Aroostook and Representative: FAULKINGHAM of Winter Harbor, Senator: STEWART of Aroostook.

Committee on **JUDICIARY** suggested and ordered printed.

**REFERRED** to the Committee on **JUDICIARY** and ordered printed.  
Sent for concurrence.

**Pursuant to Statute  
Maine Turnpike Authority**

Representative CRAFTS for the **Maine Turnpike Authority** pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 23, section 1961, subsection 6 asks leave to report that the accompanying Bill "An Act to Make Allocations from Maine Turnpike Authority Funds for the Maine Turnpike Authority for the Calendar Year Ending December 31, 2025"

(H.P. 1404) (L.D. 2190)

Be **REFERRED** to the Committee on **TRANSPORTATION** and printed pursuant to Joint Rule 218.

The Report was **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **REFERRED** to the Committee on **TRANSPORTATION** and ordered printed pursuant to Joint Rule 218.

Sent for concurrence.

By unanimous consent, all matters having been acted upon were **ORDERED SENT FORTHWITH**.

**ORDERS**

On motion of Representative LAJOIE of Lewiston, the following House Order: (H.O. 37)

**ORDERED**, that Representative John Andrews of Paris be excused Jan 16 for personal reasons.

**AND BE IT FURTHER ORDERED**, that Representative Ann Fredericks of Sanford be excused Jan 9 for health reasons.

**AND BE IT FURTHER ORDERED**, that Representative Christopher J. Kessler of South Portland be excused Jan 16 for personal reasons.

**AND BE IT FURTHER ORDERED**, that Representative Lucas John Lanigan of Sanford be excused Jan 16 for personal reasons and Jan 18 for health reasons.

**AND BE IT FURTHER ORDERED**, that Representative Kevin J. M. O'Connell of Brewer be excused Jan 11 for personal reasons.

**AND BE IT FURTHER ORDERED**, that Representative Wayne R. Parry of Arundel be excused Jan 11, 16 and 18 for personal reasons.

**AND BE IT FURTHER ORDERED**, that Representative Chad Richard Perkins of Dover-Foxcroft be excused Jan 16 for health reasons.

**AND BE IT FURTHER ORDERED**, that Representative Walter N. Riseman of Harrison be excused Jan 16 for health reasons.

**AND BE IT FURTHER ORDERED**, that Representative Tiffany Roberts of South Berwick be excused Jan 18 for health reasons.

**AND BE IT FURTHER ORDERED**, that Representative Kathy A. Shaw of Auburn be excused Jan 16 for personal reasons.

**AND BE IT FURTHER ORDERED**, that Representative Joseph F. Underwood of Presque Isle be excused Jan 18 for health reasons.

**READ** and **PASSED**.

The Speaker resumed the Chair.  
The House was called to order by the Speaker.

The **SPEAKER**: The Chair would like to thank the Representative from Calais, Representative Perry, for acting as Speaker Pro Tem today. If you will all join me in thanking her.

**REPORTS OF COMMITTEE  
Divided Report**

Majority Report of the Committee on **CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY** reporting **Ought Not to Pass** on Bill "An Act to Amend the Laws Regarding Certain Law Enforcement Interactions and Tools for Determining Residency During Conflict Resolution"

(H.P. 567) (L.D. 911)

Signed:

Senator:

BEEBE-CENTER of Knox

Representatives:

SALISBURY of Westbrook

HASENFUS of Readfield

LAJOIE of Lewiston

LOOKNER of Portland

MILLIKEN of Blue Hill

Minority Report of the same Committee reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-729)** on same Bill.

Signed:

Senator:

HARRINGTON of York

Representatives:

ARDELL of Monticello

NEWMAN of Belgrade

NUTTING of Oakland

PERKINS of Dover-Foxcroft

**READ.**

Representative SALISBURY of Westbrook moved that the House **ACCEPT** the Majority **Ought Not to Pass** Report.

The **SPEAKER**: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Rumford, Representative Henderson.

Representative **HENDERSON**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I stand today just to give some insight onto why this bill was brought forward. This was in response to something that had happened in my community, I believe it was late 2021 into 2022. I have a constituent who, out of the kindness of her heart, allowed a woman who was currently experiencing homelessness to come and reside with her for a short period of time while she got her feet; or got, you know, back on her feet. On day 15, the homeowner came home to find drug paraphernalia on her kitchen table. A verbal altercation ensued, law enforcement was called by the guest of my constituent. Law enforcement was effectively lied to and told that these two women were in a domestic partnership, which they weren't. They were lied to by the guest of this house. The homeowner was subsequently arrested and displaced from her home for 55 days. She was forced to find shelter in a women's homeless shelter in my area, she had to pay for her five cats to be housed as well. She lost her job due to a DV assault arrest, a job that she'd been at for over a decade. Really, this woman's life was turned completely upside down. She was allowed to return after 55 days. The judge had granted the resident of the home 30 days to evacuate, according to Maine Statute. The resident; or

the guest that was that resident at the time proceeded to rent a U-Haul truck and empty her home.

What we have here in front of us, the bill that I proposed, the language isn't ready for primetime, I'm willing to accept that and I'm willing to accept the Ought Not to Pass to move forward. It was really close. Any time that you begin to delve into the world of domestic violence, domestic assault issues, being on the Judiciary Committee has really been an eye-opener on how fragile that ecosystem is and I really have just scratched the surface, in my knowledge. So, I understand that it's a difficult law to bring forward, but this law was intended to just clarify language on who a resident is, who a resident isn't, so that we don't have a repeat of this. My concern if this issue is not addressed is that as we, as the State of Maine, continue to see homelessness rise, we have a State filled with good quality people who many would be willing to open their homes on a temporary basis to allow people temporary asylum. My concern is that this will disenfranchise Maine's homeowners and property owners to not want to do that for fear of our own laws working against them.

So, although, again, this bill is not ready for primetime, it will be brought back next session. My hope had been that the Committee had been willing to give it some more time and just work through the language and tighten up on a couple spots, but today, as written, it is something I can't support, but did want to bring to light that we do have a gap in this portion of the law that needs to be addressed. Thank you.

Subsequently, the Majority **Ought Not to Pass** Report was **ACCEPTED** and sent for concurrence.

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**ENACTORS  
Acts**

An Act to Amend the Law Regarding the Land for Maine's Future Board to Allow for Proxy Designees  
(S.P. 866) (L.D. 2038)

An Act to Clarify the Laws Governing Disclosure of Wood Processing Data  
(H.P. 1325) (L.D. 2063)

Were reported by the Committee on **Engrossed Bills** as truly and strictly engrossed, **PASSED TO BE ENACTED**, signed by the Speaker and sent to the Senate.

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The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Carmel, Representative Thorne.

Representative **THORNE**: Thank you Madam Speaker, permission to speak on the record.

The SPEAKER: The Representative has requested unanimous consent to address the House on the record. Hearing no objection, the Representative may proceed on the record.

Representative **THORNE**: Thank you, Madam Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House. Today is many things national day, it's National Opposites Day, it's National Irish Coffee Day, it's National Clashing Clothes day; and I'd like to thank the Representative from Milford for accommodating us on that. But it is also NASA's Day of Remembrance. NASA's Day of Remembrance is observed annually on the last Thursday of January, and this year it is today, January 25th. This day is organized by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, NASA, a body responsible for managing U.S. space research and other activities. Space exploration is perilous, yet scientists and astronauts accept this challenge bravely. This day commemorates the members of the NASA

family who gave up their lives to advance the cause of space discovery. These include, but are not limited to, the crew members of space missions Apollo 1, which occurred 57 years ago on January 27, 1967, when a fire broke out in the capsule and all three crew members perished. It also includes commemorating Space Shuttle *Challenger* which blew up on throttle-up 38 years ago, on January 28, 1986, and Space Shuttle *Columbia*, which broke up upon reentry 20 years ago, on February 1, 2003.

NASA administrator Bill Nelson said it best when he said our National Day of Remembrance honors the sacrifice of the NASA family who lost their lives in the pursuit of space discovery. While it is a solemn day, we are forever thankful that our fallen heroes shared their spirit of exploration with NASA, our country and the world. Today and every day we embrace NASA's core value of safety as we expand our reach into the cosmos for the benefit of all humanity.

Madam Speaker, with your permission, I would like to read a short poem by John Gillespie Magee, Jr. entitled "High Flight." Oh! I have slipped the surly bonds of Earth and danced the skies on laughter-silvered wings; Sunward I've climbed, and joined the tumbling mirth of sun-split clouds, —and done a hundred things You have not dreamed of—wheeled and soared and swung High in the sunlit silence. Hov'ring there, I've chased the shouting wind along, and flung My eager craft through footless halls of air ... Up, up the long, delirious, burning blue I've topped the wind-swept heights with easy grace Where never lark nor ever eagle flew. And while with silent lifting mind I've trod The high untrespassed sanctity of space, Put out my hand, and touched the face of God.

Thank you, Madam Speaker.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Wiscasset, Representative Polewarczyk, who wishes to address the House on the record.

Representative **POLEWARCZYK**: Madam Speaker, each of us has days in our lives that we can never forget; we remember in great detail what happened those days. There were two such days, the loss of the *Challenger* crew and the loss of the *Columbia* crew. Incredible individuals that you work with day in and day out and they are very much a part of everything you do on the program. You do the very best that you can and you wonder, was there a decision that I made that caused this? Or, worse than that, was there a comment I could've made that would've prevented it? And that never goes away. We do the best we can, we try to make the best decisions we can and, at times, we fail. And we get through that and we go on. In this case, I have to thank God for having blessed me with being able to spend time with these incredible individuals. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

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By unanimous consent, all matters having been acted upon were **ORDERED SENT FORTHWITH**.

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The following item was taken up out of order by unanimous consent:

**SENATE PAPER**

The following Joint Order: (S.P. 931)

ORDERED, the House concurring, that when the Senate and House adjourn, they do so until Tuesday, January 30, 2024, at 10:00 in the morning, or until the call of the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House, respectively.

Came from the Senate, **READ** and **PASSED**.

**READ** and **PASSED** in concurrence.

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By unanimous consent, all matters having been acted upon were **ORDERED SENT FORTHWITH**.

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On motion of Representative THORNE of Carmel, the House adjourned at 10:53 a.m., until 10:00 a.m., Tuesday, January 30, 2024, or until the call of the Speaker of the House and the President of the Senate, respectively, pursuant to the Joint Order (S.P. 931) and in honor and lasting tribute to Erwin Roswell Ward of Oxford and Micheline Claire Neveux of Biddeford.